

Dear Senator Lyons and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont strongly supports the proposal to limit, and in some instances prohibit, hospital liens against damages recovered by a patient after a serious accident passed in S.79 by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This is an important consumer protection and will expand safeguards for both insured and uninsured Vermonters. For Blue Cross, protecting our members against the financial catastrophe from medical bills is our top priority. The proposed legislation would require a hospital to accept a patient's health insurance coverage - Medicaid, Medicare or commercial, as payment. People rightly expect that after investing monthly in premiums their health insurance plan will be accepted to cover medical claims. This change would guarantee that protection.

We encourage you to act to protect Vermonters and update this section of the law.

Thank you, Sara

Sara Teachout (she/her/hers)
Corporate Director, Government and Media Relations
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont